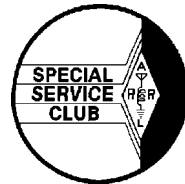




# L A R C



**Volume 46, Number 12**

**December 2006**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### REGULAR MEETING

Saturday December 2, 2006 - 7 PM  
at Global Technology Group  
4021 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy  
Lafayette, LA

### HAMFEST SCHEDULE

Minden - December 16, 2006

#### Each Wednesday

**Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery  
Check 146.820 - repeater for info

**Each Monday, 7:00 p.m.**

AARA Net 146.820 - 600

**Each Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**

ARES Net 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

YL/XYL Only Net 146.820 - 600

a.k.a. Filly Net

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is very little for me to report this month, due to my absence from the USA for 18 days. I am in the process of catching up on events and family news.

I have heard that Herman KN5GRK has done a good job of handling the races that we assisted in and setting up the ARES SET with the Red Cross. Nick K5QXJ continues to get the Children's Museum radio station setup.

I hope everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving Day and were fortunate to be surrounded by family and friends. Giving praise to the God that made all the gifts we received in life possible. We are truly blessed to live in this USA.

Veronica "Ronnie" and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73, Roland Guidry NA5Q

President

## AARA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual AARA Christmas Party will be held on Saturday December 2, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Global Technology Group, 4021 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy., Lafayette, LA (right across Ambassador Caffery from IHOP). Parking will be in the rear parking area. All attending are supposed to bring some kind of covered dish. The club will supply the main meat entree. This will be a "eating affair" with very minimum business taking place. NO VE TESTING - NO DOOR PRIZES - JUST PLAIN OLE EATING AND FELLOWSHIP. In case you have difficulty finding the location, just get on the 146.820 repeater and ask for directions.

## CAJUN 1/2 MARATHON RACE

Again, the AARA has been asked to participate in the Cajun 1/2 Marathon Race. It will be held in Acadiana Park on East Alexander Street on the Northside Lafayette on Saturday December 2nd. We plan to have the AMOS van on site. The race starts at 7:30 AM so if you are planning to help, you need to be there at least by 7:00 AM in order to pick up your "T" shirt and get to your location.

This has always been one of our fun events of the year and to add to the fun, we will be operating the HF radio in AMOS and working some of the

(continued on page 2 column 2)

### AARA OFFICERS 2006-2007

**President - Roland Guidry NA5Q**

na5q@w5ddl.org

**Vice Pres - Stratos Imvriotis KE5DCI**

**Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ**

**Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS**

#### BOARD MEMBERS

**Charlie Morrison KI5XP**

**Shannon Lytle KE5CKT**

**Danny Griffith K5ARH**

**Public Relations Officer**

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**Newsletter Editor**

**Herman Campbell KN5GRK**

The **LARC** is published monthly by the:  
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P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of  
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the  
American Red Cross Building  
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

## MARATHON RACE REPORTS

**The UL 5K Run / Walk** took place on Saturday morning October 28, 2006 in Lafayette. The AMOS van was brought from Duson to John Martin's QTH by John and Maureena the Friday evening of October 27 and left overnight. The next morning at 6:00 AM, John KA5BSE and Doug KE4GQE hooked up the generator trailer to the AMOS van and drove to the Alumni Center on St. Mary Street around 6:15. Everything fired up without any problems. Most of the volunteers that had signed up at the October meeting showed up, plus a few others. Herman had the "T" shirts on hand along with course maps.

Chummy Bourque (race director) gave our crew a outline of what part they wanted us to do around the course and where we were needed. The race started at 8:00 am and was over in about 30 minutes without any hitches. John KA5BSE and Maureena KB5SMX worked the Start/Finish line in communication with the course spotters using HT's on the 146.82 repeater.

Herman KN5GRK, worked in the AMOS van, using the HF radio for the Louisiana Simulated Emergency Net on 75 and 40 meters. He passed one piece of formal routine traffic to Mickey Cox K5MC via Richard NF5B in Memphis, TN for the SET test.

Around 9:00 AM, it was announced that anyone needing to leave the site before 2:00 PM needed to move their vehicles or be stranded there until after the parade. It was at this time that we decided to pack up and move AMOS back to John's QTH until after the Cajun Cup Run the following weekend.

Those who helped in the race were: KA5BSE, KB5SMX, KE4GQE, K5LFT, NA5Q, WA5TNK, KE5CGN, KE5LAY, KE5KFA, KE5KEG and KN5GRK.

Refreshments were served after the race – red beans & rice and soft drinks.

**The Cajun Cup 10K Run** took place downtown Lafayette on Saturday November 4th. The AMOS Van was set up on Jefferson Street across from the old Federal Court House. The "T" shirts were given out to the volunteers at the November General meeting.

The course used was the same as previous years. Ham radio operators were set up along the watering / timer stations to relay the lead runners number and gender back to the START/FINISH line which was manned by John KA5BSE & Maureena KB5SMX.

It was a beautiful day for the event, especially for the runners, not too hot or too cold. The race went without any problems. Again, volunteers received refreshments after the race. Jack KE5LAY and Greg K5LFT took a lot of photos of both races and hopefully I will have some up on our club website in the near future. Those that took part in this event were: KA5BSE, KB5SMX, WB5GAF, KC5VRN, KD5JCT, KE5IBM, K5LFT, KE5EEO, N5MLJ, K5ARH, KD5JSM, KD5TJZ, KE5AWZ, KE5LAY, KD5OJT and me KN5GRK.

I plan to have the results of the Cajun 1/2 Marathon Race in the January 2007 issue of the **LARC**.

Herman KN5GRK

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

N = NEW

R = RENEWAL

The latest roster update reflects that no one has renewed or joined the AARA since last month's issue of the LARC.

## November VE Testing Results

Andy C. Jelks N5ZCX from Norwood, LA upgraded from Technician to General.

John M. Cunniff W4JHC upgraded from General to Extra Class.

That was the activity for the November meeting.

**NO VE TESTING AT THE  
DECEMBER 2nd  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

(continued from page 1 column 1)

SkyWarn & National Weather Stations that will be on the air during SkyWarn RECOGNITION DAY.

I have placed the order for the "T" shirts for all those that signed up at the October meeting and according to Russell Bek (race director) they are really nice.

And of course, they always have some nice food and drinks available to the volunteers that help out.

Hope to see you at the race and the Christmas Party on December 2nd.

Herman Campbell  
KN5GRK

## Operating Modes

by Stratos Imvriotis - KE5DCI

### Modulation

Amateur radio operators have a variety of modes to choose from when engaged in two way communication. A mode refers to the way the signal is modulated during transmission. Commonly used forms of modulation are AM, FM, SSB, and digital. In order for a signal to be transmitted and received in a readable manner it is modulated electronically. Both transmitter and receiver must be using the same form of modulation for the communication to be successful. Each of these modes will be discussed below. The table of preferred modes for voice communication gives some idea of what to expect when you use a particular band. Some modes such as Rtty use LSB for all bands.

### Preferred Modes

LSB	160, 80, 40 meters
USB	20, 17, 15, 10 meters
FM	2, 1.25 m, and 70 cm Some USB is also used.

The following voice modes are used by general agreement.

Each mode has its own unique characteristics. One of these is amount of bandwidth occupied by the signal. CW is quite narrow (less than 250 Hz) while FM is rather wide (15-20 kHz). A narrower signal means there is room for more signals and thus more activity on the band. On the other hand a narrow signal transmits less quality or information. CW requires the use of Morse code whereas FM results in a high quality signal for voice communication. In the following each of the more widely used modes is discussed briefly.

### CW Mode

**CW (continuous wave)** is a simple unmodulated signal unlike others which use some form of modulation. By interrupting the signal with a key, Morse code is sent. Thus Morse code is not a mode but, as the name implies, a code which is used to communicate by controlling the CW signal. Although it takes some time and practice to become proficient with the code using CW is one of the most reliable forms of communication as it can generally make it through the most difficult conditions where other signals can't.

### AM Mode

**AM (amplitude modulation)** was the early mode used by hams for voice transmission. In AM the signal is a carrier (like CW) that has upper and lower sidebands that are modulated by varying the amplitude (strength) of the signal. Most shortwave broadcast stations use this method.

(continued on page 4 column 1)

## American Red Cross Amateur Radio Preparedness Exercise

At 9:00 AM Saturday morning November 18, 2006 the American Red Cross Service Area 4 (AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX) sponsored a exercise using HF and VHF amateur radio operators simulating a string of tornadoes hitting portions of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Tony Credeur (director of the Acadiana Area Chapter of the American Red Cross had asked the AARA to help represent this area in this event. The club volunteered to help as this would be a good training exercise for the new hams from the medical field in handling formal traffic.

The club AMOS van was set up outside the Red Cross Building. The van used a "sloper" antenna on a "push-up pole" at about 25 feet to communicate on the 40 meter band (7.280 MHz). AMOS used the club call W5DDL. This setup worked out fine to communicate with DRO-HQ (Disaster Response Operation Headquarters) in Dallas, TX. Dallas had a special call K5D issued for this event.

At 9:00 AM a 2 meter net was called on the 146.820 repeater in Lafayette with Herman KN5GRK as NCS operating his HF & VHF equipment from his QTH. Employees of three local medical facilities checked in on the net along with some of the local hams in the area. We had a total of 19 amateur radio operators involved from Acadiana.

Numerous pieces of traffic was passed between AMOS, K5D, Herman and the three medical facilities.

(continued on page 5 column 2)

(continued from page 3 column 1)

If you tune to the BBC or some such station using either USB or LSB on your receiver you can hear the carrier as a continuous tone as you move slightly away from the center of the signal. If you listen around the upper end of the 80 meter band you may find some hams using this mode. However AM takes twice the bandwidth of SSB and so is not widely used in Amateur radio.

## SSB

**SSB (single sideband)** is a mode where the carrier and one sideband of the AM mode have been suppressed. Whether using USB (upper sideband) or LSB (lower sideband) more of the transmitter's signal is focused in the sideband used as compared to AM. As a result the signal travels farther and is easier to copy under many unfavorable conditions. SSB is the phone mode of choice for Amateurs on the HF bands.

## FM

**FM (frequency modulation)** is what you hear on 2 meters when using a handheld and working through the club repeater. It is the mode where most hams begin. FM has exceptional quality for voice communication and there is generally no noise or fading that you hear on HF with SSB or CW. However because of its wide bandwidth requirements it is usually limited to bands such as 2m or 70cm where there is lots of room. Some FM can also be heard on 10 meters around 29 MHz.

## Digital Modes

Digital modes have been around since RTTY but really took off with the computer generation. To oversimplify digital modes use the off-on (binary 0-1) to send information. CW is really a form of this although quite rudimentary. Most digital modes require a computer to be interfaced with the radio to assist with sending and receiving the data. Most also require a TNC (terminal node controller) with a chip that supports the particular mode. You send by typing on a keyboard and receive by viewing the information received on the screen. Some of the more popular digital modes are:

- **Packet** - uses the complete ASCII character set which permits both upper- and lowercase characters in a transmission. Packet is error-free which is achieved by sending data in small packets with a check bit. If an error is detected by the receiving station it replies and requests that the packet be resent. This is repeated as needed to receive the packet correctly. When signals are good a packet rarely needs to be sent twice but under poor conditions the resending of error packets slows down the exchange of information.
- **Tor Modes - TOR means "teleprinting over radio."** These modes include **AMTOR, Pactor, G-TOR and Clover**. Basically they all use some variation of the technique mentioned in packet for ensuring error-free transmission. Each use specialized algorithms for transmission resulting in improved speed and accuracy.
- **PSK-31** - is a relative newcomer to the digital scene and is fast becoming a primary digital mode. One reason for its appeal is that it uses the sound card in the computer to send and receive through the radio. No other special equipment is needed. PSK-31 uses very little bandwidth, less than CW and can function very well at low signal strengths. Unlike Packet and TOR it is not error-free.

(continued on page 5 column 1)



12/02	N8OVD	JIM
12/05	KC5BNI	JAMES
12/07	K5UFO	CLANCY
12/08	KE5LP	FRED
12/09	NA5Q	ROLAND
12/13	N5WWS	AL
12/14	KE5LBU	EARLINE
12/22	KD5VPC	GERARD
12/22	KE5LCK	HERBERT
12/22	KE5LCG	THADDUS
12/29	N5MLJ	RANDY
1/03	N5AUO	BARBARA



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership application, this is why some may not be listed.

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## ATTENTION!

ARLB027 "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order Takes Effect December 15.

With publication in the Federal Register November 15, the long-awaited changes to the amateur rules are set to take effect 30 days later, at 12:01 AM EST December 15. The so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes. Check out the ARRL or QRZ web-sites for more information.



## FSTV and SSTV

**Fast scan TV (FSTV) and slow scan TV (SSTV)** are modes used to send pictures or images over the radio. SSTV is generally used on the HF bands and can only send a still picture due to its low data rate and bandwidth. FSTV on the other hand is generally used on the UHF bands and can send a moving picture. Recently several HT manufacturers have produced handheld radios with built-in cameras and screens for use in this mode.

## Summary

This has been a brief introduction to the modes you will encounter in Amateur Radio. For more detail the ARRL Handbook is an excellent resource as are many of the web sites devoted to Amateur Radio. Once you have chosen your mode consider the many Amateur Activities to choose from. Or maybe it's the other way around--choose your activity and then your mode. Either way you are sure to enjoy what is to come. On the next LARC (Amateur Activities)

## Code Classes Planned

If you are interested in upgrading to General or Extra Class License, you will need the 5 word per minute code requirement.

Plans are now under way to start a code class. The club has purchased a CD-ROM program to run on a laptop computer that will generate and teach you the code. This is a very nice and easy way to learn. Learning the code as a group makes it even easier because of the competition with other students. If you would like to put your name on the list, contact John KA5BSE or Herman KN5GRK asap.

## December Calendar

- December 2 AARA Christmas Party - Global Technology Group - 4021 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy, across the street from IHOP - 7:00 PM. Parking in rear. Bring a covered dish.
- December 2 Cajun 1/2 Marathon Race - Acadiana Park - 7:00 AM - Race starts @ 7:30 AM
- December 9 AARA Board meeting at CC's Coffee Shop on Ambassador Caffery - 7:00 PM

## December Special Events & Contests

- December 1 -3 2100Z-0500Z Youth Amateur Radio Club, WBØCAP Civil Air Patrol 65th Anniversary
- December 2 National SkyWarn Recognition Day
- December 7 Pearl Harbor Day - Baton Rouge Amateur Club - W5KID - USS Kid
- December 9-10 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- December 16-17 PSK31 Death Match
- December 16 thru January 1 Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

Check your December QST Magazine for more information.

(continued from page 3 column 2)

All in all, I believe the event was very satisfactory for our first simulated emergency test.

Tony Credeur was very impressed with the AMOS van and gave his approval on the job the ham radio operators did during the exercise.

A special "THANKS" to John KA5BSE and Glenn KD5NVC for bringing the AMOS van to the location, setting up and checking out the equipment.

Others taking part in the exercise were:

Rachel KE5KEZ, Jerry KE5KEG, Murphy KE5KES, Anjanette KE5LBT, Maureena KB5SMX, Larry KE5KJD, Ed WA5TNK, Dags KE5CGN, Carl KD5TCJ, Wayne KE5IXQ, James KE5HGZ, Kathy KE5KFA, Todd KE5KEJ, Waterman KE5LCH, Ken KD5YWB, J.C. WO5G.

Most of the above persons are looking forward to having another simulation in the future involving just our local hams. It was also mentioned by Rick Bourgeois N5RY that there may be plans to start a daytime net involving the hospitals in the near future.

Herman KN5GRK



**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



***AARA Christmas Party***  
**December 2nd @ 7:00 PM**  
**See page 1 of this newsletter**  
**for details.**

COMPLEMENTARY  
ISSUE

### **Classic Pecan Pie**

(submitted by Phoebe KC5VRN)

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 - Cup Karo light syrup   | 1 1/4 - Cups chopped pecans       |
| 1 - Cup sugar  | 1 - 9 inch unbaked or frozen deep |
| 3 - Eggs slightly beaten   | dish pie crust.                   |
| 2 - Tbsp. margarine or butter melted   |                                   |
| 1 - Tsp. vanilla   |                                   |
| 1 - Preheat oven to 350°   |                                   |
| 2 - In large bowl, stir in syrup, sugar, eggs, margarine, and vanilla until well blended. Stir in pecans. Pour into pie crust. |                                   |
| 3 - Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool on wire rack.          |                                   |

#### **To use frozen pie crust.**

- 1 - 9 inch deep dish frozen pie crust. **Do Not Thaw.** Preheat oven and cookie sheet. Pour filling into frozen crust. Bake on cookie sheet.

Makes 8 servings.



### ***FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE***

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or [ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).

Web site:

***<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>***

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

***<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>***

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245